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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Kazunori SAITO et al

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1641

SERIAL NO: 08/893,759

: EXAMINER: CHIN

FILED: July 11, 1997



FOR: IMMUNOASSAY

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Final Rejection dated December 19, 2000, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks and the enclosed Opinion of Mr. Kazunori Saitoh.

REMARKS

Claims 7-34 remain active in the present application.

The present invention relates to an immunoassay for detecting an antigen in a sample. An important feature of the present method is that two antibodies are used to bind the antigen, and each antibody is contacted with the sample sequentially to form an agglutinate comprising the antigen and the two antibodies (see (i) and (ii) in Claims 7 and 21). An important feature of the claimed method is that one of the antibodies has high specificity for the antigen while the other antibody does not have strict specificity for the antigen (see the last two lines of Claims 7 and 21). The present inventors have discovered that this two-step antibody binding reaction provides a assay method having high sensitivity and low cost.

AF/GP1641 AF

"RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING  
GROUP 1641"

Docket No.: 1587-0024-0



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

RE: Application Serial No.: 08/893,759  
Applicants: Kazunori SAITO et al.  
Filing Date: July 11, 1997  
For: IMMUNOASSAY  
Group Art Unit: 1641  
Examiner: CHIN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

NORMAN F. OBLON  
(703) 413-3000  
NOBLON@OBLON.COM

JAMES J. KELLY, PH.D.  
(703) 413-3000  
JKELLY@OBLON.COM

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SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**Response After Final Rejection w/attached Comments of Mr. Saitoh (5 pages/executed)**

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 24,618  
James J. Kelly, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 41,504



**22850**

(703) 413-3000 (phone)  
(703) 413-2220 (fax)

**OBLON**  
**SPIVAK**  
**McCLELLAND**  
**MAIER**  
**&**  
**NEUSTADT**  
P.C.